# NIST

*NIST Special Publication 911*

# *Firefighter Thermal Exposure Workshop: Protective Clothing, Tactics, and Fire Service PPE Training Procedures Gaithersburg, Maryland June 25-26, 1996*

*J. Randall Lawson and Nora H. Jason, Editors*

# Protective Clothing and Equipment: A System Concept

Robert McCarthy
U.S. Fire Administration

The United States Fire Administration began working on Project Fires in the 1970's and continues to support protective clothing and equipment research and development consistent with the concept advanced by Project Fires, a Fire fighting Integrated Response Equipment Systems (FIRES).

The USFA has continued to support the documentation requirements of the NFPA Committee on Firefighter Protective Clothing and Equipment for not only structural fire fighting protective clothing and equipment, but also chemical protective clothing, protective clothing for emergency medical operations, and protective clothing for emergency medical operations.

Most recent research has focused on the development of protective clothing and equipment guidelines for urban search and rescue, sizing guidance for station work uniforms, development of a stored energy test for evaluation of thermal protective performance (TPP) of structural fire fighting protective clothing, and the development of protective clothing and equipment guidelines for emergency managers, arson investigators and others who are required to work in hazardous environments.

Currently, the USFA and the National Institute of Standards and Technology are cooperating in an effort to develop state-of-the-art technology to evaluate TPP of protective clothing as that TPP relates to actual exposures on the fireground. This research will involve the development of test methods which may by ultimately used by manufacturers, standards making organizations such as the National Fire Protection Association, and users of protective clothing and equipment.